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According to Wikipedia ‘Action Research is a reflective process of progressive problem solving led by individuals working with others in teams or as a part of a ‘community of practice’ to improve the way they address issues and solve problems (Wikipedia.com, April 14, 2010). Action Research appears to be a method of approaching and dissecting an issue of concern in order to implement strategic methods in order to improve the problem. Currently, I am looking to research statistical and supportive information concerning the relationship between students’s living conditions in a shelter and how it is reflective of their academic and behavioral performance in the school setting.

Define the problem: How are students who live in family shelter systems performing academically and behaviorally in school compared to students who live in a stable and permanent home environment?

This topic seems to be very researchable as a result of a large increase of families who have been admitted to the shelter system as a result of the failing economy. The lost in jobs and wages has forced many families who lived in apartments and homes on the streets. As a result of the instability, many children have suffered academically and behaviorally. The lack of resources as well as parent support and intervention has played a major role in their decline. In addition, the shelters do not supply supportive academic educational programs for school aged children.

Currently, there are no instructional strategies in place to help these children. I propose an intervention created nationally by the school systems to create special programs after school for children who reside in shelters. These programs would allow for teachers, volunteers and child care providers to offer tutorial services for children struggling academically or in need of counseling services. Social services/workers would be notified of the programs and try to create similar ones within the shelter system. I would measure the progress of student attendance and academic improvement over a monthly period of time. In addition, I would look to see and do a follow up with parents and social service workers who are located on site at the residential shelter. My proposal is based on the behaviorist theory that people are affected by their environment. A positive change can be effective for the individuals in need.